

Newmarket Rural District

IN THE

Administrative County of Cambridge

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1950.



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**To the Chairman and Members
of the
Newmarket Rural District Council**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit an Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1950.

In this report I have recorded the vital statistics for the year. Owing to the fact that I only took up my appointment on July 23rd, 1951, the remainder of the report covering the Sanitary conditions of the district has been compiled by the Chief Sanitary Officer.

P. A. TYSER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22.

Rateable Value: £65,862.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £256.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books: 6,439.

Estimated mid-year Home Population: 20,570.

The whole district is agricultural in nature and there are no industries except those directly or indirectly associated with agriculture.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS:

					Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	307	140	167
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	10	1	9
					—	—	—
				Totals	....	317	141
					—	—	176
					—	—	—

Birth Rate per thousand estimated mid-year Home Population 15.4

Birth Rate per thousand population (England and Wales) 15.8

STILL BIRTHS:

					Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	9	4	5
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
					—	—	—
				Totals	....	9	4
					—	—	5
					—	—	—

Rate per thousand total (live and still births) 27.6

					Total	Male	Female
DEATHS	250	125
						125	125

Death Rate per thousand estimated mid-year Home Population 12.1

Death Rate per thousand population (England and Wales) 11.6

Deaths from Puerperal causes:

(a) Puerperal sepsis Nil

(b) Other puerperal causes Nil

Rate per thousand live and still births Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	.... 12 (10)	6 (5)	6 (5)
Illegitimate	.... 1 (1)	—	1 (1)
	—	—	—
Totals	.... 13 (11)	6 (5)	7 (6)
	—	—	—

(The figures in brackets indicate deaths under 4 weeks of age).

Death rate of infants under one year of age:

(a) All infants per thousand live births	....	....	....	....	....	41.0
(b) Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births	....	....	....	....	....	39.0
(c) Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births	....	....	....	....	....	100.0
(d) Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per thousand live births	....	....	....	....	....	34.7

	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	.... 32	48	55	41	27
Deaths from measles (all ages)	.... —	1	—	—	—
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	.... —	—	—	—	1
Deaths from influenza (all ages)	.... 10	7	4	5	4
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—	—	—	—	3

Birth and Death Rates for the last ten years as compared with 1950

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Birth Rate	13.3	13.7	14.5	14.6	18.5	17.1	16.1	18.3	16.0	15.6	15.4
Death Rate	13.7	12.8	11.1	12.0	12.5	13.2	11.0	13.3	11.0	12.9	12.1

NOTE: The Death Rates are uncorrected for age and sex distribution.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

		Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	....	5	7	12
1 and under 2	....	—	—	—
2 and under 5	....	1	—	1
5 and under 15	....	—	1	1
15 and under 25	....	2	3	5
25 and under 35	....	—	5	5
35 and under 45	....	1	1	2
45 and under 55	....	9	6	15
55 and under 65	....	21	17	38
65 and under 75	....	37	23	60
75 and over	....	49	62	111
	Totals	125	125	250

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:—

- (a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Dr. A. Morgan retired on 30th September, 1950, and the vacancy so created was not filled by the end of the year.
- (b) Chief Sanitary Officer, Surveyor and Housing Officer—
W. H. Couperthwaite, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I.
- (c) Assistant Surveyor and Additional Sanitary Officer—
D. Howells, A.M.I.S.E., A.R.S.I.
- (d) Additional Sanitary Officer—
F. H. Mason, A.R.S.I.

All sanitary officers are qualified inspectors of meat and other foods.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:—

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, made all bacteriological examinations that were required in cases of infectious disease.

HOSPITALS:—

There are no General Hospitals situated within the area. Cases of infectious disease are removed to one or other of the Isolation Hospitals under the control of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY:—

On the 11th February, 1950, approval was received from the Ministry of Health concerning the Council's Regional Water Scheme, as outlined in the Report for 1949, subject to a reduction in the storage capacity of the Reservoir from 1,000,000 gallons to 500,000 gallons and reductions in sizes of the principal rising and supply mains from 12" to 10" and 10" to 8" respectively.

Tenders for the reservoir and pumping stations were accepted in September and work on the construction of the reservoir commenced in November. A tender for laying the new water mains (total length 28 miles, 560 yards, including over 14 miles of 3" mains and over 7 miles of 6" mains) was accepted by the Council in November.

The total quantity of water pumped at the Waterworks during 1950 was as follows:—

		Totals	Average gallons pumped per week
Swaffham Prior Waterworks	....	49,367,000	949,000
Soham	”	18,580,000	357,000
Saxon Street	”	13,708,000	263,000
Burrough Green	”	5,832,000	112,000
Stetchworth	”	2,209,000	42,000
		89,696,000	1,723,000

Samples of the water from each of the waterworks were taken monthly and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination. 98 samples were taken during the year and with the exception of one sample taken at Stetchworth all proved satisfactory. The immediate action taken to ascertain the cause of, and deal with the slight bacterial contamination at Stetchworth resulted in subsequent samples proving satisfactory.

TYPICAL RESULTS OF ANALYSES OF PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

Test	Swaffham Prior	Soham	Stetchworth	Saxon Street	Dullingham
Physical Characters					
Reaction (pH value)	Good 7.9	Good 7.3	Good 7.2	Good 7.2	Good 7.6
PARTS PER 100,000					
Chlorine	24.8	5.65	3.7	2.95	4.2
Ammonia (free and saline)	Absent	Absent	Absent	0.0004	Absent
Ammonia (albuminoid)	Absent	0.0030	0.0004	Absent	Absent
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37 degrees Cent.	0.0276	0.0199	0.0248	0.0214	0.0247
Nitrites	Absent	0.1000	Absent	Absent	Absent
Nitrates	Absent	Absent	0.0500	0.1000	Absent
Poisonous Metals	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION					
Coliform Organisms in 100 mls	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
No. of micro-organisms per ml developing at 37 degrees Cent.	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Ditto at 21 degrees Cent.	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Hardness (grains per gallon)	3.64	17.8	22.78	18.44	13.0

Automatically controlled chlorination plants are installed at Swaffham Prior, Soham, Saxon Street, and Stetchworth waterworks and tests for residual chlorine are carried out as a routine.

The following particulars relate to the various parishes supplied from the public water mains and indicate the number of houses and estimated population supplied by connections to the houses or by standpipes.

PARISH	SUPPLY DIRECT TO HOUSES		SUPPLIED BY STANDPIPES	
	No. of Houses	Estimated Population	No. of Houses	Estimated Population
Ashley	38	102	115	344
Bottisham	172	566	40	133
Brinkley	30	113	11	47
Burrough Green	40	124	28	84
Burwell	535	1,711	114	336
Cheveley	360	892	66	150
Chippenham	28	97	82	286
Dullingham	95	316	46	184
Fordham	396	1,373	71	226
Isleham	270	885	148	501
Kennett	34	109	—	—
Kirtling	44	153	43	161
Lode	88	301	96	298
Soham	1,372	4,790	32	118
Stetchworth	55	205	77	271
Swaffham Bulbeck	129	418	38	133
Swaffham Prior	166	501	85	252
Westley	36	124	2	9
Wicken	176	572	—	—
Woodditton	211	677	45	133
TOTALS	4,275	14,029	1,139	3,666

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

In view of the result of the Public Local Inquiry into the Regional Sewerage Scheme, the Council decided to proceed with separate schemes for those parishes where sanitary conditions require the provision of sewerage facilities, and the following parishes or groups of parishes were placed in order of priority for attention:—

1. Soham.
2. Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck and Lode.
3. Cheveley and Ashley.
4. Burwell.
5. Isleham.
6. Fordham.
7. Dullingham (foul water only).

The revised scheme for Soham was submitted to the Ministry of Health in August but approval had not been received before the end of the year. Preliminary surveys and other work for the schemes for some of the other parishes were also carried out.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The refuse collection and salvage service continued to operate efficiently from the Depot at Burwell with all refuse being disposed of by controlled tipping in a nearby pit.

The regular weekly collections in parts of Soham and areas adjoining Newmarket, and the fortnightly collections throughout the remainder of the district which were inaugurated during 1949, were continued.

The following is a summary of income received from sales of salvaged materials:—

		1949	1950
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Waste paper	...	560 0 0	648 0 0
Ferrous metals	...	38 0 0	17 0 0
Non-ferrous metals	...	9 0 0	21 0 0
Rags	...	117 0 0	125 0 0
Bones	...	10 0 0	8 0 0
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	£734 0 0	£819 0 0
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>

The approximate cost of the service, compared with 1949, is indicated below, viz.:—

	1949	1950
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Annual Net Cost of Service	2,480 0 0	2,580 0 0
Cost per load	4 10 0	4 9 7
Cost per house (per collection)	0 0 4	0 0 4
Vehicle costs (per mile)	0 0 10½	0 1 2¾

CESSPOOLS.

The emptying of cesspools continued to be undertaken by a private contractor. Owing to an increase in the number of cesspools requiring emptying, due to housing development, the cost of the service underwent a rapid increase and the Council decided to employ direct labour to perform the work. In October an order was placed for a new 1,100 gallon cesspool emptying vehicle.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of the number of inspections made during the year:—

Slaughterhouses and butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	120
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	58
Fried Fish Shops and other premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	...	...	109
Miscellaneous Food Premises	...	...	...	...	46
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	82
Shops	...	...	...	...	192
Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	...	1
Factories (excluding Bakehouses)	...	...	...	...	72
Dairies	...	...	...	...	18
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	...	224
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	24
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	34
Disinfestations (rooms)	...	...	...	...	24
Drainage and Sewerage	...	...	...	...	181
Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	82
Schools	...	...	...	...	37
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	23
Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	295
Re-inspection of Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	79
Housing Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	10
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	66
Building Bye-laws—New drains tested	...	...	...	...	94
—other inspections	...	...	...	...	311
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	329
Building Licence Investigations	...	...	...	...	9
Samples taken:					
Water	...	110*			
Ice Cream	...	17			

* Ten water samples taken from private supplies were found to be unfit.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

192 inspections of shops were made for the purposes of Section 10 of the Act.

The following improvements have been carried out as a result of informal action:—

New sanitary accommodation	...	2
Washing facilities provided	...	6
Drainage system installed	...	4
Heating facilities provided	...	1
Redecoration	...	4
Water laid on	...	4

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND OTHER VERMIN.

Two dwellinghouses were found to be infested with fleas and three with bed bugs and fleas. Twenty-four rooms were disinfested by the use of D.D.T. powder or liquid.

CAMPING SITES, ETC.

No licences have been issued under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936 authorising the use of land as camping sites.

Six licences have been granted for individual moveable dwellings. The premises were inspected at frequent intervals but it was not found necessary to take any action.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

HOUSING.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

141 dwellinghouses were inspected and the necessary details recorded.

The following is a summary of the number of dwellinghouses found to be in the various categories:—

CATEGORIES.

1	2	3	5	Total
6	45	83	7	141

The total figures since the commencement of the survey are as follows:—

555	1358	1455	206	3574
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HOUSING—GENERAL.

Number of dwellinghouses inspected	295
Number of re-inspections made	79
Number of Informal Notices served	....	....	....	....	....	4
Number of Formal Notices served under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	....	....	....	....	....	1
Number of houses reconditioned	....	....	....	....	....	5
Number of new Permanent Houses completed during the year:						
By the Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	38
By Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....	....	17
(N.B.—No temporary houses have been erected by the Local Authority).						
Number of dwellinghouses found to be unfit for habitation and represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	....	....	....	....	....	13
Number of Demolition Orders made	....	....	....	....	....	11

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

Number of Dairies and Distributors on the registers (as at 31st December, 1950):—

Dairies	....	....	....	4
Distributors	....	....	....	7

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following licences have been granted:—

Dealers	....	....	....	....	1
Supplementary	....	....	....	....	3

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following licences have been granted:—

Dealers	....	....	....	....	1
Supplementary	....	....	....	....	3

INSPECTION.

18 inspections of dairies were made during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

With the exception of a small number of pigs for private persons, all animals are slaughtered at the Government Abattoir situated within the Newmarket Urban District. Assistance with the inspection of carcasses was given to the Urban District's Sanitary Inspector when necessary.

120 inspections of slaughterhouses and butchers' shops were made during the year.

The figures for unsound meat condemned at the Government Abattoir are included in the report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District.

Regular inspection is made of premises where foodstuffs are stored or exposed for sale, and the following is a summary of the foodstuffs condemned during the year:—

366 tins various foodstuffs	....	....	blown or otherwise unfit.
1 Sow pig	....	....	sourness after pickling.
6 lbs. corned beef	....	....	mould.
150 lbs. meat trimmings	....	....	decomposition and bruising.
33 lbs. boneless meat	....	....	decomposition.

PREMISES ON WHICH FOOD IS PREPARED.

54 premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, viz.:—

Manufacture or Sale of Preserved Foods	....	....	....	....	....	33
Sale of Ice Cream	....	....	....	....	....	20
Manufacture of Ice Cream	....	....	....	....	....	1

109 inspections were made during the year and a high standard of cleanliness has again been maintained.

BYELAWS.

On 26th June, Byelaws made under S.15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 came into force. Regular inspection was made of all premises, stalls and other places where food is prepared or sold so as to secure observance of the Byelaw provisions.

ICE CREAM.

Every effort has been made to secure compliance with the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947. 17 samples of Ice Cream submitted to the Methylene Blue test were reported as follows:—

GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3
14	2	1

The samples were also examined for fat content which averaged 9.98% and ranged between 7.95% and 16.3%.

BAKEHOUSES.

58 visits were made to the 21 bakehouse premises in the district.

LICENSED PREMISES.

The survey of licensed premises in the district has been continued and a further 82 inspections were made during the year.

The following improvements were carried out as a result of informal action—

Complete new sanitary accommodation and drainage	....	....	....	7
Sanitary accommodation repaired	....	....	....	1
Redecorated	....	....	....	1

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no premises registered for offensive trades in the district.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The requirements of this Act are strictly enforced and 34 licences were granted during the year.

FACTORIES.

The following is a summarised report on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, in the district.

Number of Factories on the register:—

Factories with mechanical power	....	....	....	....	....	60
Factories without mechanical power	....	....	....	....	....	7
						67

72 inspections were made. Two written notices were served in connection with sanitary accommodation and the defects were remedied without reference to H.M. Inspector of Factories or legal proceedings.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Foreman Rodent Operator commenced duties on 15th May, and 761 premises were inspected during the year. 66 premises found to be infested with rats were treated and the estimated number of rats killed was 1,250.

The amount recovered from chargeable works was £49 13s. 0d.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Table 1, introduced for comparative purposes, indicates the number of notifications of the more prevalent notifiable infectious diseases received during the last ten years. It will be noted that there was a marked diminution in the total number of cases notified during 1950, due to the absence of a measles epidemic. The number of cases of whooping cough increased but the district has, apart from three cases of poliomyelitis, continued to remain free from the more serious diseases. The poliomyelitis cases were all of a mild character and completely recovered after treatment.

Under Table 2 is shown the number of notifications received during the year arranged in age groups.

TABLE 1.

Number of Notifications of the principal infectious diseases received during the last ten years as compared with 1950.

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Measles	106	627	2	249	23	134	36	143	57	492	11
Whooping Cough ...	127	29	47	9	2	82	32	46	52	15	51
Pneumonia	3	12	19	15	2	6	1	5	8	6	6
Scarlet Fever	52	18	22	39	58	20	12	6	20	18	17
Diphtheria	2	5	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	290	691	92	312	85	243	81	200	138	531	85

TABLE 2.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under age groups.

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1950.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...							
1	..		1	1	2			
5	...				2			
15	...	2	2			1	1	
25	...		2				2	
35	...		1					
45	...	1				1		
65 & upwards						1	1	
Totals	...	3	6	1	4	3	4	

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

